

THE **GOLDEN SWAN:**
OR, THE
Rook's FLIGHT from **Graveland.**

Being the Remarkable **CASE** of
SHERWIN and his **WIFE**

Written by Himself:

In Vindication of their Innocent and Wrongful

SUFFERINGS

BY THE

False Accusations of **Thomas Goodman**
of **WEST-SMITHFIELD,**

And the **horrible** Contrivances of **William**
Silver, Innkeeper, Constable, and Post-
Master of **GRAVESEND.**

As it was given to the Honourable Mr Justice
PROBYNE, at *Maidstone Assizes, July 23. 1730.*

To which is added,

The *Life, Parentage, and Character,* of **Thomas Goodman;**
with his Tricks, Pranks, Pilfering, Forging, Thieving, and Rob-
beries, &c. Likewise the Course of Life he led in the *Fleet-Prison,*
and Obtruding himself on the *Gentlemen* of the Honourable
Committee, as a material **Evidence** against Mr *Bambridge,* late
Warden of the *Fleet:* With an Account of the Visit that *Gentle-*
man made him whilst in *Maidstone Goal.* Together with
Goodman's Tryal, **Condemnation,** and Behaviour under
Sentence of **Death;** where he confess'd it was **GOD's** just
Judgment that beset him for the *Wrong* he had done in *falsly*
swearing against Mr *Bambridge* at *Guild-Hall, London,* upon
the Tryal of the Appeal for the **Murder** of Mr **CASTELL.**

Printed for the Benefit of the Oppressed **AUTHOR** and his Fa-
mily, at Mrs *Bragg's* over against the *Crown* in *Prince's-street,*
near *Drury-Lane.* 1730.



TO THE
K I N G's

Most Excellent Majesty.

Most Illustrious Sir,

AS the CENTURION in his Day of Peril addressed GREAT CÆSAR, so, Dread SOVEREIGN, presumes your Soldier, Old, Maimed, and worn out in the Service of your CROWN, most humbly to Implore Your ROYAL PROTECTION and *Relief* against the Severest OPPRESSION and Wrongs.

The ensuing Sheets will present your MAJESTY with the uncommon

common MOTIVES that con-
strains your Servant to the Li-
berty assum'd by,

Sacred S I R,

Your MAJESTY's

most Obedient,

most Devoted,

A N D

Faithful Soldier,

John Sherwin.

To the HONOURABLE

Mr Justice *P R O B Y N E*.

My Lord,

I Humbly ask your *Lordship's* Pardon, in laying this my Case before you; but when you consider'd that my pressing Necessity is the Motive that obliges me to write, I have Reason to hope that your Goodness and Humanity, will induce you to forgive my Importunity.

It is hard for a Man to speak of his Honesty in these Days with Success; but in perusing of this, your *Lordship* will find, I have the most Reason as ever Man had, to vindicate my Character, that never was brought into question till now, and not by my own seeking; but by the horrible Contrivances, of wicked Men.

My Lord, I am one of his Majesty's True, and Faithful Ledge Subjects, that has ventured my Blood in my Country's Cause, with Honour, and will, with the Assistance of God keep them few Drops I have left, True, Loyal, and Just, from Dishonour, in spite of those that seek my Life, to gain their wicked Ends. And tho' I have in a great Measure detected them in their Villainy, I have Reason to believe there is more Hatching, to my utter Destruction, except your *Lordship*, out of your innate Goodness, and extensive Charity, takes my just Cause into your wise Consideration, and gives
me

me Liberty to come before your *Lordship* to the Bar of Justice, to declare the Wrong that is done to me, and my poor Wife, to our total Ruin ; and wholly throw ourselves on God, and your *Lordship*, having none other to stand by us, in this great Time of Need.

My L O R D,

*Your Lordship's, most Obedient and
most Devoted humble Servant,*

John Sherwin.

Maidstone-Goal,
July 23. 1730.

The Author to the READER.

AS it is common to acquaint the Reader what to expect in the following Sheets, I shall also shew the Motive which induc'd me to undertake the same.

A long Preface in these unpolish'd Words, would be very tedious, so I desire to be excused in writing this my Case, (tho' plain and easy to be understood) in such an illiterate Stile, for my intent and meaning is only to show the Wickedness of Mankind in these days.

The most remarkable Things contained therein are reducible; First, Goodman's swearing my self and Wife into two Robberies, one that was committed by him, and the other that never was; with the many Shifts, Turns, Tricks, and Windings of the Constable, in prompting him on. I have likewise laid down a true Journal of that Days Proceeding from London, from Time to Time, and Place to Place, till taken into Custody; Together with Goodman's Chances, and Its, with our commitment to Goal, and Riding in Triumph to Maidstone-Fair; where I give an extraordinary Character of our kind Landlord, showing how the Biter's Bit, and all Bit at last; with Letters, Certificates, and Goodman's Confession, setting forth the greatest piece of Villainy between the Constable and himself, that ever was heard of in the Memory of Man. Also an Account of the Tragedy that was to have been Acted for the Constable's own Benefit, wherein I and my Wife were design'd to Play the TWO principal Parts, but slipt our Necks out of the Halters, and fell into Comedy, where I set forth my Character, as I have often gain'd with great Applause, as you will see by my Advertisement, by promising never to turn Highwayman till such Time I have search'd the World round, and found out Paccolet's Horse, and Fortunatus's Invisible Wishing Cap. To which I have added the Life of Thomas

The Author to the Reader.

mas Goodman, *as in the Title Page*; with many other Remarks. Particularly, *an Account of the Land of Gotham, of their Customs, Manners, Extortions, &c. together with the Names of the Right Wife, and Worshipful Wife, the Mayor, and Court of Aldermen, in an ACROSTICK*; with their wonder and surprize at a monstrous Black Rook, that had lately flown in among them from Gravesend, and had stoln and cloath'd himself with the Feathers of a Swan, to the Terror of many in that Foolish Country.

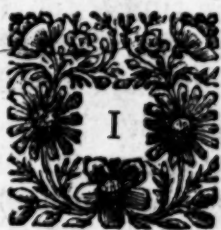
The whole I have compos'd for a Caution to all People, to show the great Wrongs and Sufferings, I and my Wife have labour'd under, by the Artful Contrivances of wicked Men, to our total Ruin, having Five Children that depend on our Labour for Subsistence, and have not wherewithal to subsist, or put us in a way to Live, my self being a Cripple upwards of three Years past. And since it has pleased GOD to afflict me, and suffer'd the wicked to Triumph, I don't doubt but his Goodness will be extended in this my Undertaking, and Publishing the most Monstrous and unheard of Villainy (that has drove me and my Family to the last Extremity) that ought not to go unpunished by the Laws of God and Man; and tho' it is quite out of my Power to help myself at present, I trust in the Almighty, and hope he'll send me a David to overcome this wicked Goliath, to which I give my hearty Prayers! And let all good Christians say Amen.

From my Lodging at Mr Bragg's,
over-against the Crown in Prince's
street, near Drury-Lane.



THE
CASE
OF
JOHN SHERWIN,
And his WIFE,

Who were falsly accus'd of a Robbery,
committed near *Gravesend*, by **Thomas**
Goodman, April 29. 1730.



I Little thought, and was always
sure, I never should appear before
a Judge on a criminal Cause;
but, by Experience, I find the
justest Man alive may be mistaken. For this I lay down to clear
myself and my poor Wife, who were falsly ac-
cus'd by this wicked Man, on purpose to save his
own Life, has *impeach'd* two innocent People,
who never were guilty of *this*, or any other
B Crime

Crime of the like Nature : but with the Assistance of GOD (in whom I trust) to make it appear, we are no such Persons he represents us to be; and shall shew, how even Justice itself may be impos'd on, innocently to give Judgment against the innocent.

I shall here disclose such a horrible Contrivance of wicked Men, that never was acted; and lay down several Circumstances, in their proper Places, to show how soon innocent Blood may be shed; and follow them in their own Paths; and, like the good Huntsman, run 'em down, down, down; 'till I make them burrow in their own Holes.

I have great reason to believe that **Goodman** was prompted on by the **Constable** to impeach me and my Wife, in hopes of getting forty Pounds a-piece on our Conviction, for they clinched her fast, and put it out of my Power to help my self (but GOD helped me).

After **Goodman** was apprehended he sent for me; I went, and found several People in the Room with him; he told me he was taken up on Suspicion of a *Robbery* on the Highway: I was very much surprized, knowing him, and little thought it to be true at the same time, for I never till then had heard a bad Character of him, and knowing that he had lived in good Circumstances, made me somewhat the bolder to speak in his behalf, which was not much: I told them that I knew him, and that he had kept the *Dolphin Alehouse* in *West-Smithfield*. I asked whether the young Woman (that he had robb'd) had seen him yet? they said no; but she was just coming. I desir'd, that when she came she might

might look about the Room, to see whether she knew the Man so well as peremptorily to fix on him. They all agreed ; in she came, pitch'd on him at first Sight, saying, *This is the Man that robb'd me, half an hour after Two a-Clock.*

Madam, said I, *are you sure it is the Man?* With that the **Constable** and another Man took hold of me, and bid me begone, or else it should be worse for me (and so I found it). I told them I was no such Person, and that I could give a better Account of myself, and I am sure I spoke these Words with a very safe Conscience. Presently they came and took hold on me ; my Wife coming to see what they charged me for, went to **Goodman** to hear what he had to say against her Husband ; they turn'd her out, and bid her begone, which makes me wonder why **Goodman** did not think on her at first as well as myself ; then as she was going down the Street, to look for the Watermen, who that Day had brought us from *London*, they sent after her, brought her back, and put her into the Room to me, together with my Son, telling us at the same time, that **Goodman** had impeached us both into this Robbery ; and ask'd whether we were not with him on *Windmill-Hill*, and sent the Boy away, while we three went into the Road together and robb'd the young Woman. I sent for the Watermen, they came and declared to the Truth, to what I shall relate presently, and were sure we had no hand in it.

☞ The **Constable** told me that Mr Mayor nor the Justices were not to be found, and that I must stay there all Night, and said there was no fear but I should be discharged in the Morning ; what Reason he had to say so, I will leave the World

to judge, for **Goodman** was actually before the Mayor, or some other Justice, that Night, and the young Woman had given her Information against him, and the **Constable** had a *Mittimus* to carry him to Goal. But why was not I there?

Because you was innocently to be kept in Ignorance, till we had Time sufficient to contrive our Hellish Scheme for your Destruction.

The **Constable** was going to put my Wife into another Room, I told him I was lame, and could not help myself. *Poh, poh*, said he, *you can run and walk as fast as I.*

I observ'd he often went out when I asked him any Questions, bid me stay and he would bring me word, which makes me believe it was to consult the other worthy Gentleman that was with him, when he first bid me begone, for he was a very dexterous Man in advising him, they often laid their Heads together when I first went to **Goodman**, and to my Knowledge he never came into the Room where I was, for I understand 'twas his Business to spirit **Goodman** while the **Constable** ran too and again to me.

When Morning came, instead of clearing me, there was another Robbery trump't up, committed between *Fulham* and *Chelsea*, and my Wife mov'd out of the other into this, (*see what Time will do!*) and when I was before the Justice, I was saying, the young Woman declar'd it was half an hour after two a-Clock when she was robb'd. ☞ No, said good Mr **Constable**, She can't tell whether it was Three, Four, Five, or Six. **Here's a Rogue**, that would make the World believe, She was so out of her Senses as not to know, within three Hours and an half, what time of the day it was. † *But*, said this Villain,

lain, (for **Goodman** could not express these Words as well as he) *What do you say to the other Robbery, between Fulham and Chelsea, when you, and your Wife, and Goodman, robb'd the Egg-Man of Five and Fifty Shillings, when your Wife took the Money out of the Man's Pocket, while you and he stood by: Can you deny that too? Did not you share the Money between you all, which came to Eighteen Shillings and Four Pence a-piece, What do you say to that?*

O! hellish Contrivance this! this! was that Night's Work, that the Devil blow'd up the Coals whilst they forged out a Robbery that never was, which I can prove.

I have one great Reason more to suspect the **Constable**, that is, after he had brought us from the Justice's, I and my Wife was admonishing Mr **Goodman**, and asking him how he could be so wicked to say such things of us, as he knew in his own Conscience were not true, and would have had him confess our Innocency, and to let him know our Blood would be requir'd of him. **Goodman** sat with Tears in his Eyes, and if the **Constable** had but joined with us at that time, I am sure he would have confess'd.

But instead of assisting he was in a great Passion; said he the Man has **sworn** it, he can't go from it, what a mad Villain would he be to deny what he has sworn.

But I believe all People will take him to be a greater Villain to stand in that which is not true, as I shall make appear; and as for the Time of the Day as this *Robbery* was committed, I will give the **Constable** three or four Hours, and save my distance, when I begin to hunt and trace the Ground. I remember the **Constable** came to me over Night, and I was saying I must be on the

the Water when this Robbery was committed ; said he, you hear what the Watermen say, they are not sure what time they landed their Passengers, they only believe it was about Three a-Clock, ☞ it may be before, or it may be after, it is all one for that ; all as we can do is, to consult, whether it was *POSSIBLE* for you to be there in the time.

So we must be sent to Goal, and in danger of losing our Lives for his POSSIBILITIES. But here I shall lay down the true Time, and give Mr *POSSIBLE* his own Hours, as he mentions, and work up to the Hour Six ; and shew him, that if the Robbery was committed at that Time, it was *impossible* for me to be there ; and then I will work them back again from Six, Five, and Four, and survey the Ground as *Goodman* went, and find out, within a little Time, what Time of the day it was, when he met the young Woman with those terrible Words, **Stand and deliver.**

Mr *Goodman* inform'd them, that he and I made an Agreement at *London* to meet him at *Gravesend* ; and when I ask'd what Part, he said on *Tower-Hill*, where he met me by chance. **You see he chuses a large Room, but no House :** and observed nothing, nor knew no body, he cannot mention any House wherever we met at in *London*, neither can he tell where I liv'd at any time.

He says he met me as I was coming to *Gravesend* ; but gives no description of the Place, or what we did, or what we saw ; and said he took no other Notice than going all together to the Top of *Windmill-Hill*, to consult what we had to do. **How strange it is !** that Persons should be Confederates so long, as he says, and not know where to find one another but by *Chance*.
Chance

Chance it was when he met me on *Tower-Hill*; *Chance* it was when he met me coming to *Gravefend*. But there was a *Chance*, for it was by *Chance* that we landed where we did. *Chance* it was when I actually met him, but a very bad *Chance* for me and my poor Family. By *Chance* we met no body, and by *Chance* no body saw us (being all invisible) till by *Chance* he met the young Woman, then he had a *Chance*, for by *Chance* he robb'd her of Half a Guinea, and it was a very great *Chance* she sav'd her Rings. The **Constable** expected Fourscore Pounds by *Chance*, for our innocent Blood, but by God's Providence he miss'd his *Chance*.

Now I'll give a Just and True Account of that Day's Proceeding, which I actually took from home that Morning, and go along with the Day from Place to Place, and Time to Time, till the very Time that **Goodman** was taken into Custody.

When we were before the Justice, I sent for the Watermen which brought us from *London*, who declared to the Truth of what I am going to relate :

And here is my Journal.

Wednesday Morning, the 29th of *April*, the day the *Robbery* was committed, I set out from home at half an Hour after Four a-Clock, in order for *Maidstone* Fair. I got to *Billingsgate* by Seven, took Water at Eight for *Gravefend*, but fell short a Mile and half; the Watermen landed their Passengers at *Three of the Clock*, except my self, Wife, and Son, for *John Bull* advis'd me to sit in the Boat, because I was lame, for he would strive to row to Town. We did so, and I and my Son lay down in the Straw, covering our
selves

selves with the Tilt, and I myself fell asleep ; in half an Hour after, he came and helped me out of the Boat over a Lime-Hoy, and had much ado to get me ashore, telling us at the same time he could not get to *Gravesend* till three Hours after, the Tide ran so strong against them. I got on Shore, and being cold and chilly went into an Alehouse to clean and brush our Cloaths from the Straw. We staid there half an Hour at least, which brings the Time to *Four a-Clock*.

Now I'll proceed to *Gravesend*.

We ask'd our Way of the Watermen, who bid us keep the low Road, and we could not lose our Way. We kept the same till we came to a Lime-Kiln, where were several Men at work, and a Coachman and Porter inquiring after the Tilt-Boat and Wherries, there I lost the low Road, and went through a Style where was two Foot-Paths, we left that on the right Hand, and kept that next the Water-side, and in our way met with four or five Cliffs, which made it very troublesome for me to get up and down, but as my Wife and Son helped me, the Place being cover'd all over with Bushes. Passing the Cliffs we came to a little House near the Town, with a Well on one side the Door, there I sat down, and my Son wip'd the Lime off my Shoes ; and getting up, we saw *John Bull*, the Waterman, going into Town, by himself, (for he kept the low Road) and by that Time he had got to one End of the Street, we got into the other ; and making our Way as well as I could, and almost at the end of the Street, I heard a Voice call *Sherwin ! Sherwin !* I went back and found it to be this bad **Godman** ; I ask'd him what he did there, he said he dealt in Fruit. I call'd him Landlord, for I
rented

rented a Room of him one *Bartholomew-Fair*, and that was the first and last Contract that ever I made with him, and the first time I beheld him since *Southwark-Fair*, except once as he *chanc'd* to pass me in *Bartholomew-Close*: By this time I hope you will allow me an Hour more, and make it five a-Clock; and it is very wonderful that **Goodman** should meet me, and make none of these *Remarks*.

When we were before the Justice, I sent for his Landlord; he came and declared how **Goodman** call'd me into his House, and said he was there a long time before, for he had eaten his Dinner of minc'd Veal, and had changed the *Half Guinea*, and was at the *Barber's* before I came in; he told them we were talking of several things but not in private; I told him, myself, where I was going to lie that Night, and by that he forms the Story of meeting me by *Chance*.

But **Goodman** said he was to meet me at my Lodging to share the Money: 'Tis strange I should be so long in his Company as he says, and not ask him where he lodg'd, as you may see by my passing the Door I knew not; but this is the same forg'd Story as the other, which I will explain.

After he had committed the *Robbery*, you find he had chang'd the *Half Guinea* before I came in; **How easy had it been for him to have given me my Part?** But instead of that, I ask'd him to come to my Lodging, and I would be glad to drink a Pint or two with him; he said he could not see me that Night, but would come to *Chatham*. I not knowing what he had done, nor of his being afraid to come up in Town for fear of

being seen ; the Time I stay'd with him was about three Quarters of an *Hour*, having had two Pints of Beer, I paid one, and left him. I had not been gone above a quarter of an Hour, before a Man came and told me there was one wanted to speak with me at the *Swan*. I went to see who it was, and found it to be this wicked *Goodman*, and then it was but Six *a-Clock*.

Now I will lay down the pretended Journey as *Goodman* says we took, the back of the Town to *Windmill-Hill*, and so back to the Hour *Five*.

It can't be thought we could go very fast, I being lame, and four in Company ; but as several People take me to be a *Conjurer*, they may think I cover'd us with an *Invisible Cap*, for we were not seen ; and to go over the *Hill* to *Melton Church* is a long way about.

The *Hill* stands a great way on the right Hand as you come to *Maidstone*, and to go about, and up a high *Hill*, and there consult, and then down *Hill*, and so a-cross the Fields, to *Melton-Church* where the *Robbery* was committed, is two Miles at least ; and my being a *Cripple*, and the Difficulty of the Road, I am sure I could not do it in four *Hours*, allow me but *two*, that will bring it to *Seven a-Clock*, which must be the Time, if I was there, when he robb'd the young *Woman* ; and then my coming back again, where he says I left my Wife and Child, would make it *Nine a-Clock*, before I got to his Lodging ; but these are *Invisible Doings*, and the *Constable* may plainly see it was *impossible* for me to be there, tho' not *impossible* my being in *Goal*. But I have not done with him yet, in the mean time I'll work back from the Hour *Five*, (for I have given an Account

Account of the last) and lay down some Remarks to be taken notice of, and proceed to hunt him to the very Time as he *positively* met with the young Woman by *Chance*.

At Five a-Clock when I came up to **Goodman** he was smoaking his Pipe, and he could not be less than an *Hour* in the House before that, which I shall prove.

His Landlord said he had eaten his Dinner, (it was minc'd Veal)

I don't suppose the Cook was in a great Hurry
about _____ it

There was the *mincing of* _____ it

There was the *dressing of* _____ it

And as the Gentleman had Money, all

things were laid in order for _____ it

There was his *eating of* _____ it

I can't believe he gave God *Thanks for* it

So I will not reckon that *Time in* _____ it

There was his *drinking with* _____ it

And *smoaking after* _____ it

I can't tell how long, but add all these

its together, I may very well pick an

Hour out of _____ it

And bring that Hour down will make

the Hour *Four of* _____ it

So the **Constable** may see the *Robbery* was done before this.

I have one *IT* more, and I hope it will satisfy all People, that *Sherwin* and his Wife are *innocent* of what is laid to their *Charge*; for the Name of a **Chief** I always *abhor'd*, and from that **Crime** I'll justify my self, and boldly say, there is not an honest Man in *England*.

Goodman, by his own Confession, made further from the Town, when he *robb'd* the young
C 2 Woman

Woman, and whilst he made that Way as fast as he could run ; so I'll go back from the Hour *four*, and lay down *Reasons*, and consult whether it was *possible* for me to be in this *Robbery*.

When a Person has done Mischief and has run his *Length*, he winds off at a great Distance from the *Road*, and then leaves running, for fear of being taken *notice of* ; and when he once faces the *Town* (especially when the News is gone before) he looks continually before him, to see who is coming ; he makes no great speed then, for he is afraid of every thing that stirs ; and as much as possible, avoids all Persons seeing him ; so by this means, having his Eyes about him, he lurks from *Place to Place* and hides himself behind every *Bush*, till such time he finds an Opportunity to slip into his *Hold*.

This I take to be the Case of this wicked *Goodman*, that instead of my going with him to *Windmill-Hill*, as he says, at our going out, he took a sloop over *Hedge and Ditch*, and cross the *Fields*, and over this *Hill* and into *London Road*, where he changed the Half-Guinea at his coming back ; then sneak'd over the *Fields* again, and went round the back of the *Town* and so into a *Barber's Shop*, where he was *shav'd* and *powder'd*, and then to his *Lodging*. I am sure he took time enough to get himself into right Temper, and out of his breathing Sweat, and walk'd in as *demure* and *innocent* as if he knew nothing of the matter, and this takes up *Time* ; and I believe Mr *Possible* himself allows it to be an *Hour and a half*, which reduces the Time to half an Hour after *Two a-Clock*, and the very time what the *young Woman* said when she happened to see the *Gentleman* at *Gravese*, by *Chance*, and
People

People most commonly stretch to be sure they are within time ; and for all this the **Constable** will have me in this *Robbery*, when I have made it appear I was on the *Water*, and here I'll show in what manner he proves it.

That Morning before I went to the Justice's, the **Constable** came to me and seem'd to be in a great *Passion*, said *he*, *You was on Windmill-Hill, and sent the Boy away, while Goodman, you, and your Wife, consulted what to do ; and your Wife and Boy stay'd upon the Hill, and you and Goodman went into the Road ; your Boy knows it very well, for he fell a singing last Night, fa, la, la, la, ra, and said, Mother, Goodman confounds himself with his own Words : Now, said he, is this not a plain Case he knows of the Robbery ? for Children and Fools will speak Truth.*

These are the Sayings of this *wise Man*. I can't tell what Circumstances he is in ; (if bad) he ought not to make up his broken Fortune with the Price of our *innocent Blood*.

For what can any Person make of these Words more, than that the Child rejoiced when he heard **Goodman** declare first one thing, and then another, against his Father and Mother, that was not true, and a plain Case, *he comprehended the Words so well, that all may see he is not arriv'd from the Land of Gotham.*

☞ I could give a large Description of this wonderful Country ; of their Laws, Customs, Manners, Tricks, Cheats, &c. which I shall publish in a short Time, and only take Notice at present, *viz.* If I had happened to have been carried before any *Honourable and Worthy Gentleman in the Commission of the Peace out of Gravesend*, he would have been so wise, as to have detected them in
their

their *Foolishness* and *Villainy* and never sent me to *Goal*, for the artful Contrivances of *wicked Men*.

Now it is my time to consult whether it was *Possible* for me to be in this *Robbery*, and this is the Rule I work by.

Say *Three a Clock* when *he* committed this *Robbery*.

Three a Clock when the *Watermen* landed their *Passengers*.

From *Three till Four*, *he* making his way to his *Lodging*.

And *I* half an *Hour* in the *Boat*, and half an *Hour* in the *Alehouse* where we landed.

From *Four till Five*, *he* *Eating*, *Drinking* and *Smoaking*.

And *I*, making my way to *Clavensend* from the *Alehouse* where we landed, being a *Mile and a half*.

From *Five till Six*, *he* in my *Company*, and taken into *Custody*.

And *I*, with *him*, and going to my *Lodging*, where *I* thought to lie that *Night*, but was mistaken.

A *Mile* further, where the *Robbery* was committed.

The *Way*, *he* says, *I* went over *Windmill-hill*, above *two Mile*.

But *Mr. Possible* works by another Rule (a *very wicked one*) it's the Rule called *Practice*, for *Goodman* declar'd, That he advis'd him to *swear* against me and my *Wife*, and he would find *Men* to prove it, and that would be the way to save his own *Life*; and he to get *Forty Pound* apiece for *hanging* us.

What

What a wicked Contrivance is this? for Persons to combine one with another to take the Lives of Innocent People away for a little Money, not as I blame any to serve their Country, to find out all such Villains, but ought at the same time to give them a Caution what to do, and not advise them to swear falsely and bring those into trouble that never deserved it.

For this is a plain Case in what they have Acted: First, in their going over Night and swearing me and my Wife into this Robbery; and they finding I was likely to get off of this, by giving a just and true Account how I came from London, and bringing the Watermen that declar'd to the Truth of what I said.

They did not think so much of *this*, as they thought of the *other*, which they had over Night, put into the Fire, and by next Morning had hammer'd one out, between Fulham and Chelsea (and my Wife moved out of this into the other) which Robbery never was committed; for having a mistrust of their Villainy (tho' I said nothing) I was resolv'd to be quick enough for them; I sent Letters to my Friends to inquire into the said Robbery, if any such, and how, and who, and where, and when, and what they lost, and whether there was a lame Man, or a Woman in it: They sent me word it was a Sin such a Villain should go without Justice done him, for they had been with the Constables of both Towns, and inquired into the Robbery of the Egg-Man, and that there was no such ever committed: I sent to one of his Brothers to let him know my unhappy Circumstance; and he, and another Brother of his, sent me an Answer, with these words following:

Mr.

Mr. Sherwin,

M^R Brother Freeman, and I, am very sorry that you and your poor Family should suffer under the false Accusations of our vile Brother, which I am assured you do; I doubt it is impossible to save my poor wicked Brother's Life, we can do no good without we make Interest with the Judge that goes the Assizes, when we will do our Endeavours to serve you, and save his Life: We have made Inquiry on the Robbery between Fulham and Chelsea; there never was no such done; he ought to have nothing but the Prison Allowance, for being such a Rogue: As for that on Epping-Forest, I can give no Account of, so I desire he will send the Truth, for Wilkinson is now in New-Prison, &c.

Sign'd, { Joseph Goodman,
 { Luffman Freeman.

But right or wrong, the **Constable** was to find Men to prove this *Robbery*, in hopes of the Reward, and I should be very glad to see such Gentlemen (*commoly call'd the Knights of the Post*) to appear before a Judge, that I might detect them in their **Uillainy**; and be a means to bring them to Justice; for upon Tryal, I could make it appear, that I was not able all that Month, and a great while before, as they say it was committed, which was *December* last, and before *Christmas*, to come out of my *Chamber*; so that Mr. **Possible** must begin the Rule of Practice once more, for he is not perfect in it as yet.

That

That Morning I took Water at *Billingsgate*, an Oyster Woman and my Son fell out ; the Woman struck the Child, my Wife going to bring him away, a few Words arose between them, as is usual in those Cases ; the **Constable** hearing of it by some of the Watermen, said, I was a *Villain*, and that I only wanted to *Pick-pockets*, when at that time I was in the *Alehouse*, and I am a very likely Man to be a *Pickpocket*, with a Crutch in one hand and a stick in the other, and to be a *Highwayman* ! is much more Wonderful.

I must acknowledge this worthy **Gentleman** (the Rogue the **Constable** I mean) was very civil, and used us in a very decent Manner, and made us lodge with him all Night, whether we would or no ; and being the King's Officer, (the more is the pity) he rais'd a strong Guard, and places them both within and without, that Nobody should disturb us of our Rest, and would not let me be at the Charge of a Coach the next Day, so mounted us on Horseback.

I believe he is a very good **Riding Master**, for he show'd me how to sit strait, with my Arms close to my Sides, and made me fast under his Belly, for fear I should fall and run away without my *Crutches*, he likewise tied my Wife behind to hold me up, and sent four Men, well mounted, at the *Parish Charge*, to take great Care of us, and in this **Triumphant** manner we rode to *Maidstone Fair*, where we was kindly Entertain'd at a Place call'd the **Chequers**, it being a very good Inn for Accommodations, and has a very good Trade, for they are never empty ; and Mr *Coppin*, the Landlord, is extraordinary kind and courteous to his Customers, and never is willing

to part with them till such times as they are going to depart this World, and then he sees them on their Journey as far a **Pickenden-Heath**.

You may well think that I am very much beholden to the **Constable** in sending me there for the same Intent, for he left no Stone unturn'd to make a **Chief** of me ; but I defy'd him and all the World ; and if I was ever so bad, they are worse, that strives to *Rob and Plunder their Country*, by finding false Accusers, and endeavour to **swear** the Lives of *Innocent People* away, and shed their *precious Blood* for a little *Reward* ; which Reward for **Goodman**, they ought to bestow on me for the wrong they have done, *in being the total Ruin of my poor Family*.

I was continually at **Goodman** to confess our *Innocency*, and he finding he was not likely to escape Justice, and I, shewing him the *Impossibility* of his ever proving any Thing against us, it pleased God to turn his Heart, and confess his Faults, and declar'd, the **Constable** came into the Room to him, and made all depart but **himself**, and said, that that was the time they did my Business, then it was as the **Constable** and I order'd how Matters should be laid, he was the sole Contriver of forming my Words what I should say the next Morning to Mr Mayor against *Tho. Wilkinson*, yourself and Wife.

This *Tho. Wilkinson* is the other Innocent Person, as **Goodman's** Brother mentions in his Letter, which he Impeach'd in a *Robbery on Epping-Forest*, and the **Constable** took Directions where to find him, thinking to have gone that Night, *but here the Biter was Bit, and both Bit at last*, as you shall hear.

The

The **Constable** neglecting to go that Night, but thinking to set out betimes in the Morning, gave Opportunity to another Man as **Goodman** had told as he was going to **Goal**, (*the Man being one of our Guard*) home he got that Night, and finding **Silver** not gone, away he flies! to **London**, and takes **Wilkinson**, who was clapp'd into **New-Prison**, but to no purpose, for he was honourably discharg'd at the Sessions the 21st of **May**, to the great Disappointment of the **Infamous Mr. William Silver**, *Innkeeper, Constable and Postmaster of Gravesend*; (this is he that got 140^l. for taking the Jew at **Canterbury**, you shall hear in what manner, in the Life of **Goodman**.)

When **Goodman** confest these Words, he said, they lay so heavy on his Conscience, that he could not rest Night nor Day, till he declar'd the Truth, and ask'd God and me Pardon for the Wrong he had done me and my poor Family, in **falsly swearing** against us. I desir'd him to give it me in Writing, and under his Hand, which he willingly did in these Words following.

I **Thomas Goodman**, do acknowledge that I have falsely and wickedly (by the Advice of **Mr Silver**, Constable) Impeached **John Serwin** and his Wife, in the Robbery I committed myself near **Melton-Church**, the 29th of **April**, and likewise in another between **Fulham** and **Chelsea**, that never was, and I do, from the bottom of my Heart, ask God and be Pardon for the Wrong I have done him and his poor Family, for I never heard a bad Character of him.

✎ I do further declare upon my Conscience, as I expect no other than being a dying Man, these are

the Words under written that the said **Silber** spoke to me, having turn'd all out of the Room.

Don't ponder now, if you know of any Robberies, **Deech** Sherwin and his Wife in them, it's no matter where, for if you will but **swear** against them, I will go to London, and get Men to prove it, and think of another Person. Be sure you stand fast to your Integrity, and keep yourself in one Story, and take Care in what you say, and say the same to the Men that sit up with you all Night, for they will be asking you several Questions, but be sure you think of another Robbery, for Sherwin perhaps may get off of this, and that is the way to save your own Life, and I shall get Forty Pound apiece for hanging them.

These are the Words, I solemnly declare, that caused me to Impeach Sherwin and his Wife (that now lies in Goal, and another innocent Person, one Thomas Wilkinson, and acknowledge myself into two Robberies that never were committed, in Hopes to save my own Life.

Witness my Hand this 8th Day of June 1730.

Thomas Goodman.

The **Constable** to be sure will deny all this, but the *Circumstances* I have laid down is *Just and True*; and tho' it has pleased God to afflict me with Sickness and Lameness for some time past, infomuch, that by these Calamities I am very much reduc'd, but I must here tell him, I know my Duty to God and Man as well as he, and defy! him to bring any Person that knows me to Stain (that as I always priz'd) my good *Character* with many of the Nobility, Gentry, and others
of

of Great Britain, Ireland, and other Nations as I have been in.

And as for what **Goodman** has declar'd, and under his own Hand, he may likewise say it is false, because he hath prov'd a **Rogue** to me he may be the same to him; but it's no more than what I plainly foresaw, that he was the only Person that caus'd me to be sent to Goal, and what can it now avail **Goodman** to declare those things of him that is false, when he expects no other than being a **Dying Man**, he can't think it's any Means to save his Life, so much as it did when he **swore** *Three innocent Persons into such Robberies that never were committed*, then he had Hopes, but now he has none; his *Conscience* flew in his Face for what he had done; and express'd those Words with Tears in his Eyes, the *Robbery which I committed* lies heavy upon me; but what I have done to you and your Family is more than I can bear, and can't ask God Pardon with a true Heart to forgive me my Sins till I have declar'd the Truth, it was the  **Constable's** Fault in what I have done, for he made me drunk over Night with Wine, and order'd I should have any thing I call'd for, and told me I had a whole Night to think of what I had to do, and said, he was not right sober when he got to *Maidstone*. I had like to have forgot one Circumstance, but I believe it is in a very proper Place.

When we were before the *Justice*, my Wife was left some Time behind; and after I was taken away, the *Town-Clerk* said, he could not tell what to do but discharge us, for it was impossible for us to be in this *Robbery*; the **Constable** made Answer, and said, *As for this I can't tell, but there is the other between Fulham and Chelsea,*

Chelsey, *that's true enough, and they may as well lie in Goal for one, as the other.* There the **Uil-lain** spoke true enough ; but for the *Robbery*, he was to Play his Part (the **Rogue's**) in this **New Tragedy**, that never was Acted before, for this **wicked Author's** own Benefit ; so here I present you with a Bill.



Never

Never Acted before,
For the Benefit of Mr **Silber**, Constable of
Gravesend.

A New **Tragi-Comedy**, call'd
The Rogue's Contrivance; or, An
Easy Way to get Sixscore Pound.
By the best Actors that ever appear'd on a Stage.

The Names, and Characters, in the Play.

Adviser	}	by	Mr Devil.	} All of Gravesend.
Grand Rogue			Mr Constable.	
Arch Rogue			Mr a Tallowchandler.	
Impudent Rogue			Mr a Tapster.	
Knight of the Post			Mr a Basket-maker.	
Highwayman			Mr Goodman.	
Rachel Lander			The young Woman that was Robb'd.	
Egg-Man	}		A Person unknown, for his own Diversion.	
Doctor Cure-All			Jack Catch.	

And the Part of the Two **FOOLS**, by **SHERWIN**
and his Wife.

And all the other Parts to the best Advantage.

Scene **Pickenden-Heath.**

With several Entertainments, particularly a Caper
out of this *World*, into the *Other*, by the
Two **FOOLS**.

Beginning exactly between 11 and 12 a-Clock.

You see that I, and my Wife, was to Act the two *Principal Parts*, to the **Constable's Advantage**; for we was to be drawn in a **Cyburn Coach** across the **Stage**, with **Halters** below our Heads, *hanging down like a Pendant*. We were to have Books and Nosegays in our Hands; *one to pray ourselves out of the World, the other to smell to, for fear we should faint on our Journey*. We were to have White Caps, to pull down over our Faces, that we should not see, *when we took our leap into the Elysian Shades*: There was to be Crouds of People, as *Spectators*, to see us pass along: There was to be a strong **Guard** from all Parts, with Pikes, Halberts, and Staves, *to show us the right way*; with Men, Women, and Children, *crying, The last Words and Confession, and dying Speech*, of the — Fool — and — his — Wife: In short, we did not like to be *fool'd out of our Lives* with this **Tragical Part**; so slipt our *Necks* out of the **Halters**, and damn'd the Play, and fell to *Comedy*, as you will see by my *Advertisment*.

At the time of the *Affizes*, the **Constable** understanding that he should be question'd for his unjust **Proceeding**, brought one Mr **Meadows**, a *Tallow Chandler*, and Mr **Sibley**, a *Basket Maker*, with that vile **Rogue**, and false **Villain**, his **Capster**, to speak in his behalf, and they were ready to **swear** any thing for him, and to that, as I am sure was as false as God is true; but, these are the *Bone of his Bone*, all **R—ues** alike, and the very **R—ues** that help'd him to compose the *Play*, and especially the **Tallow-Chandler**, he being the **Man** that sat with **God-man** when I was first taken, whilst the **Constable** ran to and again to me, and I have been *inform'd since*, that the **First Three** were to share the

the Reward for Me, my Wife and Thomas Wilkinſon, which, at Forty Pound a-piece, makes Sixſcore.

At the Time of the *Aſſizes*, there was a Gentlewoman from *Chatham*, that ask'd *Silver*, What he meant in doing what he had done to us? Why, ſaid he, he is a *Rogue*: Then, ſaid the Gentlewoman, mark what follows, for you had better to have given Five Hundred Pound than ever concern'd yourſelf with that *Rogue*. Poh! Poh! ſaid *Silver*, I ſhall make a *Rogue* on him, and I will ſoon ſet forth his *praiſe*. — But here I ſhall ſave him the trouble, and ſet forth my *Character* in the true *Light*, and better than he can expreſs it himſelf, and more then he *POSSIBLY* can think of as I will make appear.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Notice is hereby given to all People whatſoever; Old or Young; Rich or Poor; great Ones or little Ones; Married Men or Batchelors; Wives, Widows, Maids or Maukins; Wife, or Otherwiſe; eſpecially to the *Knaves* and *Fools* of *Graveſend*.

THAT I am the Man that People call famous *SHERWIN*, who for my Art, (but not the thieving Art) is ſo much admir'd by all the Nobility, Gentry, and others, with great Applauſe.

I perform the *Dexterity of Hand*, to the greateſt Perfection, as cauſing Fruit, Flowers, Fiſh, Birds, Beaſts, and other creeping Things, to appear very ſurprizing; with Cards and Birds
E flying

flying and jumping in and out of Eggs ; and
 the great Performance of the little Hen, that lays
 a Bushel of Golden Eggs ; with the Springing
 of the *wonderful large Oak*, with all its Boughs,
 Branches, Leafs, Acorns dropping, and a *Sow*
 and *Ten Pigs* running out of the Stump, or Root
 of the Tree, and eats them all up ; with *two Men*
 hewing it down, and then it's gone ; likewise
 the cutting off *the Man's Head*, and taking
 it from his Body, and makes him whole again,
 so that he rises up and *Dances Jiggs, Minuets,*
Boureys, Corants, Hornpipes and Sarabands,
 and shows all manner of Postures (except turn-
 ing himself, inside out) ; to the *Wonder and Ad-*
miration of all Spectators : You will also see the
 little *Turkey Horse*, lately arriv'd from off the
 Deserts of *Arabia*, he is but seven Hands high,
 very swift of Foot, and fit for a *Gravelend*
Post-Master ; for *he'll run Twenty Miles at length,*
and find out the greatest Rogue within that distance
of London ; he shows many Tricks, as playing
 of *Cards*, and tells *Money extraordinary quick* ;
 for he can speak as well as any Horse in *Eng-*
land ; for, he says, *two Forty Pounds makes Four-*
score ; which is the Reward for any two *Highway-*
men that *Rides to Pickenden-beath* ; and for your
 further Accommodations, you see the Variety of
 the *Artificial-Mill*, that's look'd upon to be a
 great Rarity, and of wonderful Use ; especially
 in *grinding Old Women Young*, and making them
 look as fair and as beautiful as Virgins of *Eighteen*.
 This, and several other Diversions of Ingenuity,
 very Curious to all Beholders, which I Challenge
 the World to perform the same ; beginning half
 an Hour after *Two a-Clock* ; I can't tell whether
 it will be *Three, Four, Five, or Six*. It's no
 Matter

Matter when; it may be before; or it may be after, it's all one for that; all that is to do, is to *Consult*; whether it is *Possible* for me to do all this in the time. *Vid.* ☞ *Page* 4, 6.

And here I'll quote the saying of *Butler* in his *Hudibras*.

*Doubtless the Pleasure is as great,
Of being cheated, as to cheat.*

A great part of this I have perform'd before their *present Majesties*; and I mention this as one of my *Characters*, to let the World see; That I am that *Sherwin*, that never was ashamed of my Name, or Actions; and can assure the **Constable**, he took the wrong Person to answer his unjust Ends; and I promise all People whatsoever, never to turn *Highwayman*, till such times I have search'd the World round, and found out *Paccollet's Horse*, and *Fortunatus's Invisible Wishing-Cap*; and then it will be *possible* for me, to fly over **Windmill-hill**, and not be seen by the wicked People of **Gravesend**, from whom, I pray, *Good GOD! deliver me.*

I am still *persecuted*, under the worst of *Persecutions*. The **Constable** has not got his full Revenge of me as yet, but let him do his worse, there is a *Great GOD* sees all his *Actions*, and will not suffer him to go unpunish'd for the *Wrong* he has done me and my poor Family. Let him draw near, and behold a *Father* and a *Mother perishing in a Goal*; let him draw nearer, and view with those monstrous Eyes of his, *their dear Children that are wanting Bread*; let him come closer yet, and see *their Parents Grief*, and *their tender Infants Tears*; let him look stedfast on us all, and consi-

der what he has done, *to our total Destruction and Ruin*; for now All's gone, *my Goods seiz'd, turn'd out of House and Home; my Children in the Streets; the loss of Friends; the scandal to my Relations, and what I valued most of all, my good Name amongst all Mankind*; and now must lie longer in Goal, having not where withal to gain my *Inlargement*, and all this for Nothing!

I now leave it to all People, and to the Judgment of the whole World, whether I have not the greatest Reason, as ever Man had, to vindicate myself, and tho' the **Constable** threatens me with Prosecution for publishing Copies of **God-man's** Words, *which I have from under his own Hand*, I do once more declare, that I will *Publish* them, (all his Words,) whether true or false, (and they ought so to be for a Caution to all Mankind) and in my Description of the *Country of Gotham* (Vid.  p. 13.) I shall give a large *Character* of a **Pernicious Innkeeper**, the worst of all *Callings*, in that Part of the *World*. There shall not be a *Town* in *England* but what shall have them. The Royal *HAND* shall not escape, to let the *Kingdom* know my *Innocent* unhappy Case, and the great *Wrong* they have done me, to the *total Ruin* of my Family; and what good People will blame me for so doing, when our *TWO LIVES* was the *Pledge* to answer their **unjust Ends**.

I have given a just and true Account of my **unfortunate Journey**, and the first I have taken this Three Years past; for I have been *Sick and Lame* ever since, and had much more need to have been sent to an *Hospital* then be *thrown* into a **loathsome Goal**, and just at a *Time* as I was about *Petitioning* his *MAYESTY* (having the Interest of a *Noble Lord*) for His most **GRACIOUS** Letter for *Chelsea*.

But

But what *Noble Man* will stand by me whilst I lie under these **scandalous Aspersions** and **false Accusations**, till such *Time* I make it appear (and *Publisch* it in all our *News-Papers*) that I am *Innocent* of what is laid to my *Charge*, by such **wicked, inhuman, and barbarous People**, and *Retrieve* my *Character* and *Reputation* with that *Worthy* and *Honourable Lord*, whose *Patent* I have.

I am a *Man* that *Faithfully* serv'd my *Country* both by *Sea* and *Land*, and have *Honourable Certificates*. I here shew the *Copy* of one given me by the *Right Honourable* my *Lord Marquis de Montandre*.

I Do hereby recommend the Bearer hereof, John Sherwin, and do certifie, (being well assured) that he served in the late War in Flanders, in the Regiment of Foot, commanded by the Honourable Colonel Hill, and in Captain Duterm's Company, and that he receiv'd several Wounds, and taken Prisoner at Leffen, in a Party commanded by Colonel Coffield; and at the Siege of Mons received a Hurt in one of his Thighs, which disabled him from further Service, and as such was discharged and recommended to Chelsea-College, by Captain John Edwards of the aforesaid Regiment, whose care he was under, coming for England; but having recover'd Strength, he was unwilling to sit Idle, whilst his Country's Cause requir'd his Service, he voluntary enter'd himself in my Regiment, (when Raising) in Captain John Hudson's Company, and was of great Service in Recruiting the same; and continued in the Station of Corporal and Sergeant till the Reducement, and always behaved himself as becometh a good Soldier.

That

That he hath often been Lame of the aforesaid Hurt, and now his Pain and Anguish is return'd so violent on him, that he has gone above two Years on Crutches, to the Ruin of his Family, and now oblig'd to seek for a Pension, his Damage being receiv'd in the Service.

London, April the
20th, 1730.

Sign'd,

MONTANDRE.

This, and several others, I can produce to my Character, and the **Constable** may see, I have been a Staff-Officer as well as himself, but with this great Difference, he for his **Roguishness and Villainy** in the Town of **Gravesend**; and I for the good of my Country and the whole Realm, in serving my **SOVEREIGN** for the Honour of his Crown and Dignity, in many an Engagement, with the Loss of Blood and Limbs; but of all the Battles, Sieges, and Storms, as ever I have been in, never was in so much Danger of being Lost, as in this great Tempest.

The End of the C A S E.

As soon as my Lord receiv'd this my **CASE**, his Lordship was so good to order Me and my Wife to be set at Liberty, much against the Inclination of the **Goaler**, who would not carry us to Court (as is usual) with the other Prisoners, but
said

said, *There was nothing against us, what should we do there?* His Design was to have delay'd the Time till the Judge was gone, to have kept us for our Fees.

I comprehended his meaning very well, and told him, *I would Conjure the Doors open*; which Words he found to be true; for I sent a Letter to my Lord to let him know the Goalers's Intent, who immediately sent fresh Orders to turn us forthwith out: He now was obliged to obey the Word of Command, to unlock the Doors; so open they Flew, and let the two Fools into the sweet Air (that we had not enjoy'd for twelve Weeks before) to bring us to our right Senses, with this Compliment from our kind and loving **Gruff Landlord**, *begone, for I want no such Guests here.*

No sooner was I set at Liberty, but I went directly to pay my Respects to my GREAT Deliverer, that Worthy Gentleman the Honourable Mr Justice PROBYNE (whose Memory will always be imprest in my Heart) to return his LORDSHIP Thanks for our happy Deliverance, and to the no small Joy and Comfort of my Dear Children, *that were wanting Bread.*

I likewise never shall forget the kind Usage I receiv'd in that good Town of Maidstone, from all People in general, and the many Gifts that was sent us from unknown Hands to help us Home, with many other Favours, as you will see by the Copy of a Certificate that the Worshipful Mr Mayor was pleased to give me, together with the Minister that tended on **Goodman**, and the High-Sheriff of the County of Kent.

Maidstone,

Maidstone,

WE whose Hands are here under-written, do Certifie, That John Sherwin, and his Wife, was falsly and wickedly accused by **Thomas Goodman** (who now lies **Condemned** in this **Goal**) of a Robbery which he himself committed on **Rachel Lander**, near **Melton-Church**, **Gravesend**, the 29th of *April* 1730.

Witness our Hands the 10th of *August* 1730.

George Curtis,
Mayor.

Deodatus Bye,
Minister.

Mawdly Best, Vice-com.

I was willing to stay some time longer in *Maidstone* to write **Goodman's Confession** and **dying Speech**, but I was trick'd out of the last by a *Reprieve*; it is but for further *Orders*, so I have one *Chance* left yet, and I don't question but I shall see the **Constable** and him have their just Deserts; but all in good time: And since he has chous'd me out of his last **Words**, I here content my self, for the present, to publish the **Life** and **Transactions** of this wicked **Man**, as I have pick'd out of his *Relations*, *Friends*, and *others*, and have *Persons* to prove the same, he being an old **Offender** from his **Cradle**, as you shall bear by what I shall set forth. I have likewise set down my arrival at **Gravesend** in my way *Home*, and barbarous **Usage** I met with from one of his *Brothers* at my coming to *London*, which was the *Reason* that induced me to make this *Inquiry*, for before I never heard a bad *Character*, I having no other Knowledge then once *Renting a Room* of him during the *Time of Bartholomew-Fair*.

The

The Life of **Thomas Goodman.**

THIS **Thomas Goodman** was the Son of *John Goodman*, that kept the *Cooks-Shop* at the *Sign of the Lion and Lamb* in *Giltspurstreet, Pye-corner* : His *Father*, by his honest *Industry*, began to appear pretty well in the *World*, much about the time the **Preston Rebels** were in **Newgate**.

For young **Tom** was constantly imploy'd to tend on those **Gentlemen**, in carrying them *Viſtuals*, and runing of their *Errands* ; so that he became at that time a very great Favourite of **Parson Paul**, (and by what I have heard him express, I am sure he bears his **Inclinations** to this Day) for when he went to **Execution**, **Tom** kneeled down in the **Sledge**, and kiss'd him, and, as I am inform'd, ask'd him *Blessing*, and wept bitterly. He was so sore troubled for the loss of so good a **Master**, that his *Friends* thought he would run into **Despair** ; so sent him to his *Grandmother's*, thinking by that means to Cure him of his **Melancholly** ; but that did not do, for in a short time, he writes *Home*, to acquaint them, that he was troubled with *Visions* and *Apparitions*, and that *Angels* appear'd to him ; and to let them know, he was call'd by *God* to be a *Parson*, and desired to be sent for to be brought up as such.

Tom by some means or other got *Home*, and fell to his old *Trade*, in visiting his good Neighbours in **Newgate**, where it's thought he got acquainted with some of the light-finger'd *Gentlemen* ; for presently after this, he betook himself

to the Art of **Thieving**, and had no more thoughts of following the *Profession* of his old Master, **Parson Paul**.

Some time after, his *Father* put him Appren-
tice to a *Copper-Plate Printer*, where he play'd
many **Rogues Tricks**, to supply himself with
Money to play at Cards, and Skittles, and other
Gaming, *which he took great Delight in*: Things
was often lost out of his *Father's-House*, inso-
much, they mistrusted the *Maid*, and was for
turning her away, but the **Thief** was at length
found out; the *Maid's Box* was broke open, and
her *Money* and *Cloaths* gone, to a considerable
Value.

The *Maid* was sure that **Tom** was the **Thief**;
strict search was made, his *Haunts* found out,
where he had made away the Goods; it being
plainly prov'd, the *Maid* was for *Prosecuting* him;
but his *Father* making her Satisfaction, she agreed
and made up the *Robbery*, and poor **Tom** was
sent to the *East-Indies* to escape the **Gallows**.

Tom having made a Voyage to the *Indies*,
and return'd *Home*, his *Father* got him all *Imple-
ments* fit for his *Trade*, (but he did not love work)
and being grown a lusty young Fellow, he looks
out for a *Wife* for him, *thinking that when he was
Married he would be better*; the old *Gentleman* was
not long before he found one out, which was the
Widow Poole, that kept the *Dolphin Alehouse* in
Smithfield, **Tom** being her fourth **Husband**.

Mr **Goodman** (for so we must call him, he
being a married Man, and a Housekeeper) thought
now to live a *Gentleman's Life*; his *Trade* was
thrown aside, and his Dependance was on the
Tap; but he was as idle in this as in the other,
minding nothing but running *Abroad*, from one
House

House to another ; looking out for **Companions** at Cards, Dice, Skittles, and Shuffle-Board, in-
somuch, that he lost the *Custom* of his *House*.

Things beginning thus to decay, he made them worse by privately making away with his own *Goods*, and giving out they were Stole, and laying it on *Innocent Persons*.

Goodman's *Mother* being dead, and his *Father* Marrying again, left his *House* for his Son **Thomas**, and settled him in the *Cooks-Shop*, (thinking that would do) but it was all one to him, let who would Work, he was resolv'd to Play, till such time he play'd himself into the *Fleet*, where he play'd several *Pranks* for his *Wife* keeping on the Shop, and he having the *Liberty* of the *Rules*, he would often come *Home* and beat her, and take the *Money* from her, or keep her in talk while some of his **Companions** came privately and run away with a *Pig*, or *Goose*, or any other Joint, *for what they liked best, he would be sure to put in their Way, and go to another House and make merry.* This Course of Life he led, till his poor *Wife* could hold it no longer, and so shut up Shop.

He was a great grief to his *Father*, and I believe, the **wicked Life** he led, was a means to break the poor old Man's Heart, *for he died and would not suffer his Son to come near him before he departed this Life.*

Now all being gone, but a little as his *Wife* supply'd him with, he betook himself to his old Shifts of *Thieving* and *Pilfering* once more. Some I can Name ; his *Robbing* Mr *Adams*, a *Currier*, of Six Skins ; Mrs *Poole* of a Silver Spoon, Mr *Smith*, a *Brushmaker*, of a Pair of Sheers, Mr *Tomkins* of a Silver Spoon, and pick'd his Pocket of a Guinea ; Mrs *Beale* of a *Holland Shirt*,

which she was forc'd to pay Fifteen Shillings for; and he was a very *Dexterous Fellow* in Forging of Notes, and getting Money on them when he had done, and follow'd that Trade for some Time, till at length he was detected in his *Villainy*, in Drawing two Notes in the Name of Mr *Wren*, *Leatherfeller*, in *West-Smithfield*, and Discounted one with Mr *Baker*, at the *Adam and Eve* in *Pancras*, the other with a *Shoemaker* in the *Long-Row*, which Mr *Wren* was obliged to pay, and would not Prosecute him, he being a Neighbour, and said, his hand was so well *Counterfeited* that he could not have known it, *but as he knew he never had written them.*

Goodman continuing in the *Fleet* waiting for the Act for the *Relief* of *Insolvent Debtors*, and following a very **wicked Course** of *Life*, at length was put up close *Prisoner*. There he continued till the *Honourable Committee* was appointed to Inspect into the State of the **Goals** of the Nation. Now he thought this was his only Time (for this **Grand Rogue** stuck out at nothing) as you shall see by his *Imposing* on the whole *Legislature*, in the Case of Mr *Thomas Bambridge*, late Warden of the *Fleet*, who being question'd for the **Murder** of one Mr *Castell*, this *Villain Goodman* obtruded himself upon the *Honourable Committee* as a material Witness, and accordingly give Evidence at *Guildhall*, *London*; but with such *improbable Circumstances*, that he gained no manner of Belief; *nor indeed I can't see how it was Possible he should*, for he himself confest publickly, what I have inserted in his *Behaviour* under Sentence of **Death**; and I can't omit one *material Point*; for after **Goodman's** Commitment to *Maidstone Goal*, Mr *Bambridge* came there to see him, and
after

after sitting with **him** more than a quarter of an Hour, he ask'd **Goodman**, if he did know him, or had ever seen him before; **Goodman** answer'd, *That he never had seen him*; Mr **Bambridge**, said, surely you must be mistaken, don't you remember these *Cloaths*? (pointing to them). **Goodman** still answer'd no. Whereupon, Mr **Bambridge** told **him** who, and what he was, and said, What induc'd **you** to be such an abandoned **Villain** to swear **falsly** against a Man *that you did not know, nor never injured you*, at which **Goodman** fell upon his Knees, confest the *Wrong* he had done, in **swearing falsly** against him, and begged **GOD** and his pardon for so doing.

Goodman having got clear of all his Debts by the Act, he fell to his Trade of the *Rowling Press* once more, and put it up at his *Brother-in-law's*, being the same House where he married his *Wife*, the *Dolphin Alehouse* in *Smithfield*; but he went on as Usual (for Work and he was always at strife) and continued there but a short time, before they mist several of their *Goods*, and reprimanding **him** about them, said, *Surely, he must be the Thief*. **Goodman** swore and curse he knew nothing of them; but by inquiry, they found where he had pawn'd some of them. He was resolv'd to be even with them for finding his **roguery** out, so went directly to the *Landlord*, and told him, *that his Brother was going to run away*; he came and seiz'd on all their *Goods*, turn'd them out of *Doors*, and the poor Man fled (with two of his Children) into the *Country*, to avoid the *Fury* of his *Creditors*; and his *Wife* (which is **Goodman's** *Wives* Sister) left behind in a very poor Condition, he being the total *Ruin* of the whole *Family*, and in the midst of the *Hurry*, whilst the *Landlord* was there,
 he

He ran away with a large *Fish-kittle* and as many *Plates* as **he** could well carry off.

After this **his** mind run on keeping a *Publick-House* once more, and accordingly heard of one in *Hog-Lane*, near *Shoreditch*, wherein there were several *Goods* and *Utenfils* to be *Sold*: **He** very fairly took it, and got *possession* of the *Key*, which gave **him** an Opportunity to **Rob**, **Plunder**, and carry away every thing that was there, and left the *Landlord* to seek out for a another *Tenant*, for he could not tell where to find this **crafty Knave**.

Goodman's Wife was continually at **him** to mind **his** Work (since all was gone) for the maintenance of **his** two *Children*; but the *Parish* may take them for **him**, **he** would have nothing to do with *Wife* or *Child*, and very fairly left them to shift for themselves.

This **wicked Villain** had more mind to follow the *Honourable Gentlemen* of the *Committee*, to see whether **he** could be of any *Service once more*, and finding no great *encouragement*, betook **himself** to Shifting and Shammacking about, here and there, and every where, borrowing of *Money* where **he** could get it, and Discounting of *Notes*, (you may be sure they was some of the old sort) for I have heard of several where **he** went to put them off, and they would have nothing to do with **him** nor **his** *Notes*, especially *Mr Wilkinson* in the *Old-Baily*.

He never came near **his** *Family* all this while, and often mov'd **his** *Lodgings*, so that **he** could not be found but by *Chance*.

But by Enquiry I have found one out (in *Charter-house-lane*) where **he** Lodg'd but a short time before **he** Robb'd *Mr Franklin*, **his** *Landlord*, of several *Goods*, and made off, so this must be the
Trade

Trade he followed then. — What drove him to **Gravesend**, I can't find out; but these Words I have had from one of his Relations, viz. *It's well he is gone from this, for there is some in London would give ever-so much to know where he is, for they would hang him.* So this is plain, he flew to escape Justice.

He was loitering about **Gravesend** for some time, and very seldom seen out of a *Skittle-Ground*; but being the time of the *Fair*, little Notice was taken of him, yet some thought him to be an *Idle Fellow*, for no body knew his Business. Having no Money left, he began to play his old Pranks, with going into Houses, and calling for *Viſuals* and *Drink*, and then slip out of Doors. Some he told he dealt in *Fruit*, and he would pay them the next *Morning*; but on the 28th of *April* last, going into the three *Mariners*, (thinking to go on his old way) he run a Score of *Fourteen-Pence*, and could not get an *Opportunity* to be gone, for the *Landlady* had a mistrust, and required Payment for what he had: He told her the same Story as he had done to others; but that would not do, so he left a *Cap* and a *Pair of Stockings* for the *Reckoning*, and desired to lie there, because it was late, which he did that Night with another Man, and got up early next Morning, and mad bold to empty his *Bed-fellow's Pockets*, and went off undiscovered, but was taken in his *Mill-
any* in the *Afternoon*, being the 29th, for *Robbing Rachel Lander*, on the *King's Highway*, and taking from her half a *Guinea*. (With his false *Accusation* in *Impeaching Me* and my *Wife*, and another *Innocent Person*, together with the *Horrible Contrivance* of the *Constable*, and our *Commitment* to *Maidstone Goal*. You may see in my *Case*.)
Being

Being arriv'd at *Maidstone*, **Goodman** was put into *Double-Irons*, and **he** behaved **himself** very well in them ; for the first *Night* **he** could walk, caper, jump, and dance, *as well as any old Offender there*, and all the Prisoners **swore**, that was not the first time **he** had worn *Darby's* (*which is the cant name for Irons*). **He** knew how to bolster them up, that they should not hurt **his** Legs, and had the right cant Name for every thing. **He** call'd for *Liquor* to make them drink, and said, **he** was glad to see them ; and wish'd them all a safe *Deliverance* ; but for **his** Part, **he** was sure **he** was Safe, for **he** expected to be Bail'd out in *Two or Three Days time*. **He** desired me to sit down and be merry, for *I may thank my self for what was done*, for **he** was always unwilling to follow this Course of Life, till my perswading **him** to it ; and would never let **him** rest till I got **him** out of **his** House, and was the Ruin of **him** ; and said, I could not be angry for what was done, for the oldest Offender ought to go first ; and **he** did not care who it was, for **he** would hang **his** Father and all **his** Kindred before **he** would hang himself.

This is the way **he** went on the first Night. I took particular Notice of all his Actions, and for a Week or more, **he** seem'd to be but little concern'd for what **he** had done ; and was sure **he** could make out the Robbery against us ; and writes a Letter to Mr **Silver** the Constable, with words to this effect.

S I R,

IF you expect **I** should keep my Word against **Sherwin** and his Wife, **I** desire you will send me something to subsist upon, for my Friends will do nothing

nothing for me, and you are sure to get Forty Pound a-piece for them; and Sherwin is continually at me to confess, and says you was the only Man that advis'd me to Impeach them. Your Answer with speed.

Thomas Goodman.

Before this Letter was sent, he receiv'd a Letter from his two Brothers, to let him know they would do nothing for him; and as he work'd himself in, he may get out as well as he could, for he had brought all this upon himself, and it was no more than what they expected along while ago; adding, that his Wickedness was so great, in Impeaching me and my Wife (that were Innocent of all his wicked Actions) that he deserved the worst of Deaths. At the same time I received Letters from his Brothers, and my Friends. Vid. & page 15, 16.

Goodman, finding that I had been too quick for the Constable and himself, began to relent for what he had done, and ask'd my Pardon, and confess'd all; and shew'd me the Letter he had wrote, in order to send to the Constable, which confirm'd all my Thoughts and their wicked Actions, to my great Satisfaction.

I was willing to be further satisfied; I made him send the Letter; but the Constable did not think fit to answer it; and told me he never receiv'd it; but I am sure he lies, for I had a Friend that put it into the Post at Maidstone, and he is the Postmaster of Gravesend, so that it could not miss Carriage; and I don't doubt but our Good Landlord the Goaler, gave him some Intelligence, for he took his Part very much, and often told my Wife, that the Constable would

Indict us at the *Affizes*, and have us Whipp'd for abusing the *King's Officer*.

Goodman having taking all his Degrees, except hanging, he took up the Profession of his old Master **Paul**, and calls himself a *Parson*, for he reads *Prayers* twice a Day, with a very audible *Voice*; but such a wicked *Divine*! never was seen; for he would be first at **Cards**, and then to *Prayers*, and from *Prayers* to **Cards** again; one time **Cursing**, another time **Swearing**; sometimes a *Judge* or a *Justice*, a **Constable**, a **Witness**, or a *Thief-Taker*; in short, he represented all Parts of the *Law*, as much as the **Hangman**; he would *Arraign*, **condemn**, **hang**, **whip**, **burn**, &c. He was experter at this than all the old **Thieves** in **Goal**, and partly told them all what *Punishment* would be inflicted on them before they went to **Trial**.

He continued in this sort of Pleasure till the 7th of *June*, when the **Goaler** stop'd a *Letter* of his, directed to his Brother **Joseph Goodman**, at the Sign of the *Wheat-Sheaf*, in *Cock-lane*, near *West-Smithfield*, desiring him to make all the speed he could to send him down *Saws* and other *Tools*, to break out of **Goal**; whereupon he was taken from us and put into the **Condemn'd Hold**, where he confest, that all the *Prisoners*, (except my self, and two more) were concern'd with him, whom they did design to gag and tye, and so to make their *Escapes*: But if he had said their Intent was to have murdered us, I am sure he would have spoke the *Truth*; and here I will leave him to ponder on his past wicked *Life*, till the 22d of *July*, when he was called to the *Bar of Justice* to answer to the *Robbery* he was committed for.

On

On the Day aforesaid, **Thomas Goodman** was called to the *Bar* and *Arraigned*, and pleaded not *Guilty*, so entered on *Trial*.

Thomas Goodman was *Indicted* for assaulting *Rachel Lander* on the *King's-Highway*, putting her in fear of her *Life*, and taking from her half a *Guinea* the 29th of *April* last.

The *Prosecutor* deposed, that as *she* was going to **Gravelend-Fair**, and being on the *Causeway* near *Melton-Church*, the **Prisoner** at the *Bar* came up to her, and walked a little way by her side, as if he had been going to **Town**, and presently he spoke to her, and said, *Madam, I must have your Money.* She said, *She* had none. But he *swore*, *she* had, and would have it: With that *she* took out half a *Guinea* lapp'd up in a *Paper*, and before *she* could give it him, he snatch'd it out of her *Hand*, and bid her make the best of her *Way*, and said, **Damn** you, if you look back, I'll kill you.

She was ask'd, Whether *she* saw any *Body* on the *Road*, *She* said, there was no *Body*, for *she* look'd round about to see whether there was any *Body* coming, and said, *She* saw none, nor met none, but an *Old Woman* at the *Town's End*, which *she* did not speak to. *She* was ask'd what time of *Day* it was; *She* said, about two a-Clock. Vid. ☞ Page 4.

She was ask'd, Whether he offer'd her any *Violence*; *She* said, *No*, but ran away as fast as he could towards *Stroud*, and trembled like an *Aspen-Leaf*, when he took the *Money* from her.

The two *Men* that took him, deposed, that they had seen the **Prisoner** for some time in **Town**, and that they had play'd at *Skittles* with him several times, and especially the *Night*

before the *Robbery* was committed, when he had not Money to pay for what he had lost; and finding by the Description the young Woman gave of him, he must be the Man, and taking him to be an idle loose Fellow, went to look for him in all the Skittle-Grounds in Town, thinking them the likeliest Places to find him in: But not finding him, they bethought themselves that they had seen him a Night or two before, at the Sign of the *Dolphin* in *Silverstreet*, went there, and found him, and charg'd him with the *Robbery*, and sent for the *Bossiler* to take him into Custody.

The Prisoner had not much to say in his Defence, but said, he did it for want, and, that it was the first *Robbery* he ever committed, altho' he had sworn himself into two others that never was, and was heartily sorry that he should be perswaded so to do by Mr *Silver* the Constable, which made his Crime the worse, in falsly swearing against Innocent People.

The Constable was call'd, who denied that ever he bid him *Peach me and my Wife*; but acknowledged he said *Peech, peech*, and that was all he said; but if I had been there, I should have ask'd him, Why he did not carry me that Night before the Justice as he did *Goodman*? (for I was three Weeks in Goal before I knew that he had been that Night before him, and the young Woman had given her Information, and his *Mittimus* given to the Constable to carry him to Goal) where I could have clear'd myself of this *Robbery*, and gone about my Business, for *Goodman* did not think of any other then; and the Constable could repeat the forg'd *Robbery* between *Fulham* and *Chelsea*, better than *Goodman*

man could do himself. Vid. ☞ Page 21, 19, 3, † 4.

The Judge gave his Charge, and the Jury brought the Prisoner in Guilty. **Death.**

And the Constable was Indicted for some other Affairs, and fled out of Town that Night.

This Villain of a Constable, is the Man that took Abraham Israel, the Jew, for Robbing of Mr Mendez de Costa, and got 140 l. for the taking of him, and here I shew in what manner.

John Pisin being sent in pursuit of Abraham, got to Gravesend to this William Silver's, it being the Posthouse, and hearing of Abraham there, and that he was gone towards Dover not long before, order'd Horses to be got ready, in order to follow him. Silver looking over the News, and finding the Reward, was resolved to have it himself, and order'd a Horse to be got ready likewise (you may be sure it was a very good one) and put the poor Man on such a Fade, that he had much ado to get him along. Away! Silver flies before him, and got to Canterbury; took Abraham before the Man got halfway, and choused him out of all, as he did design me out of my Life; it being a very easy way to get Money.

On Friday the 24th Goodman was brought to the Bar, and received Sentence of Death, (which he justly deserves) and seem'd to be very penitent, but pitied by none, and begg'd of me and my Wife, to forgive him, and acknowledged that this was a just Judgement that befel him, for the great Wrong he had done to Mr Bambridge. Here! this vile Wretch desired me to write to him, and to let him know, that on his knees he ask'd his Pardon for the Injury he had done him, and his own Soul, in falsely swearing against him, of

of that as **he** knew nothing of *but by hearsay*; and begg'd for *God's sake* that he would forgive **him**, **he** likewise declar'd the same to Mr *Deodatus Bye*, the Minister that attended on **him**. I did not write according to **his** desire, for I could not tell where to direct to Mr *Bambridge*.

Goodman, to all outward Appearance, seem'd to be very *Penitent* till *Friday* the 29th, when News came to **him** that **his** Brother had met the Judge at *Kingston*, and had got **him** a *Reprieve*, and it came accordingly the Sunday following.

Now **he** thought **himself** safe, so the Scale turn'd once more, for coming to **him** on *Monday*, I desired **him** to resolve me something, which **he** had promis'd me before; said **he**, how will ye do to know? for I shall tell you nothing; and I am very sorry I have said so much; you have gotten too much out of me already, and you may get the rest where you can, for you have done your endeavour to hang me, but all your Tricks will not do. So this is all we got for our twelve Weeks false Imprisonment; and sure such a Grand Rogue as this never escaped hanging, as you shall here by what **he** afterwards acted.

Goodman understanding I was going to leave *Maidstone*, sends a Letter privately to the Constable to acquaint **him** I was coming to *Gravesend*, and design'd to get **him** to join with me to have **him** hang'd, but begged of **him** not to mind what I said, for I was sadly afraid **he** would prosecute me for publishing Copies of **his** Confession, which **he** was heartily sorry for; adding, **he** could get nothing in suing a Beggar but a Louse; and that **his** Brother Freeman would do my Business, by throwing me into Goal when I got to London. I

I was very little afraid of **his** Brother, or the Constable, and making my way Home, and coming to **Gravesend**, bestrow'd Mr **Silver's** Door with Salt. You may wonder why I did so, but the good People there, said, *I did it because the Town should not stink of a Rogue.*

This dress of **Silver**, made **his** complaint to the *Worshipful Justice Jones*, that I had given out he was a **Rogue**, and that *I*, my Wife, and Son, had cover'd **his** Door with Salt, and would have had him to send us to *Maidstone* again; his *Worship* ask'd me the Reason why I did so? my answer was, *I bought the Salt, and hop'd he would not send me to Coal for throwing it on the King's Highway*; and as for giving out he was a **Rogue**, I said plainly (*for I did not stand to baulk it*) he was a very great one, and I believe this *Wise Magistrate* thought as much himself; and the *World* shall see I will make a vile Villain off him; but **his** Neighbours say, *he is already made to my hands.*

I desired this *Worthy Gentleman* (*Justice Jones* I mean) to Sign my Certificate, which was given me by the *Mayor of Maidstone*, and the *High-Sheriff*: No, said he, *I can't do that, for I had no hand in sending you to Coal.* I wonder his *Worship* should be so forgetful: But in the *Country of Gotham* they call the — Hands — Feet. If so, I ask pardon, and assure the *Wise Worshipful Wise*, he had one Foot in it, for he put his *Fore-Paw* to my **Wittimus**; but said he, *I believe I must secure you once more*; for Mr **Silver** is afraid you will burn his House, and accordingly sent Orders to the Landlord (*so would any wise man*) to take great care, and not let me out that Night. They were sadly afraid of

of a Cripple that could not stand, *but any excuse was better than none*, for they were in a *Puzzel*, and could not tell well *what to say*; but let it be what it would, *they have enough to swear falsly to it*: For they *hang all together*; I do not mean in *Cord* or *Concord*, but I say in a *Roguish Cord*; and I say again (*as the Cavalier said to the Rumps in the Usurper Cromwell's Time*) its no matter what Cord, *so it be but a strong CORD*.

In my Case, *Page 13*. I said I could give a large *Description* of the *Wonderful Country* of *Gotham*; and in *Page 28*. a *Character* of a *Pernicious Innkeeper*, which I shall presently do; *but take this in the way before I depart Graves-End*, that has been the *Ruin, Grave, and End* of many poor *Family*, as *Thousands* of his *Majesty's Sailors* can assert, by making a *total End* of all *their Pay*. It now is, and always will be, a *Saying* among *their Wives*, in all common *Discourse* (*my Curse on Gravesend*). Likewise they have many a *Woe* pronounced against them by the *Fatherless-Children* and *Widows*, whereon I have great *Reason* to add one more, *viz. Woe* unto you, the *wicked* only of *Gravesend*; for ye are like unto whited Sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *Mens bones*, and of all uncleanness, *Mat. 23. 27*.

A Description of the Land of Gotham.

OF all the *Countries* in the *World*, *Gotham* has the Name for *Tricking, Couzening, Biting, Cheating, Extortions*, and the most *Oppressions* to *Strangers* that ever was heard of, *especially* by some of the *Innkeepers*, who are the *unmanner-liest*

*lieft, faucieft, impudenteft, ill-bred, knavifh, illite-
 rate, barbarous, villainous, roudifh, fcountrel, raf-
 cally, prattling, blockifh Fools, that ever Man met with;*
 for they are continually running up and down
 like *Roaring Lions*, *seeking whom they may devour*,
 and when they have met with their *Prey*, are not
 long before they *accomplifh* what their *ravenous,*
monftrous Appetites require. Those are the *Ger-
 min* that caufe the Scandal to be thrown on that
Foolifh Place; these are the *Bloodfuckers* of the
Nation, that *ftives to Rob and Plunder* their
Country, with the Price of *Innocent Blood*; these
 are the *Birds of Prey*, that have built their
Nests amongst the *Chattering Jackdaws*: But the
 greateft *Wonder*, as I beheld in this *Strange Land*,
 was, to fee a *Pernicious, Ugly, Monftrous*
Black R O O K, that had newly flown in there
 by *Stealth*, and had cloath'd *himfelf* with the
Feathers of a *S W A N*. His looks were fo very
terrible and *frightful* to behold, that all gave
 way, and fhunn'd the *Place* where-e'er *he* came.
He continually went *Strutting* up and *down* like a
Crow in a *Gutter*, and made fuch a *hellifh* *croak-*
ing and *pecking* at thofe as *he* thought *he* could *over-*
come, that feveral fled to *Justice* (*but not to their*
foolifh Laws) to *rid* themfelves of this *horrible*
Plague. But my *Admiration* was the more in-
 larged when I found the *Place* all in an *Uproar*,
 to know what fort of *Monfter* it was. The *Fools*
 were of feveral *Opinions*, and was refolved to
 have a *Court* call'd of all their *Wife-men*; and im-
 mediately it was *compos'd* of the very beft *Magiftrates*;
 which where *Tinkers, Taylors, Butchers, Bakers,*
Carpenters, and Innkeepers, and here I'll fet
 forth their Names in an *ACROSTICK*.

H

The

T H E

Right Wise and Worshipful Wise
TOBIT SHALLOW, Esq;
 Mayor.

The Wise and Worshipful Wise the
ALDERMEN.

R ,oger	R ,navespate,	M ,aurice	F ,eatherbrains,
D ,river	R ,oodle,	A ,nthony	D ,ven-skull,
G ,regory	A ,ir-brains,	D ,ennis	D ,pen-skull,
A ,riah	A ,oid-sense,	M ,ark	L ight head,
E ,noch	E ,mpty,	E ,dmond	E ,gg-Sbell,
S ,aul	S ,imple,	R ,ehemiah	S ,enseless.

Simon Numb-Skull, Town-Clerk.

These are the *Wise-men* that Govern the Coun-
 try of **Getham**; but I do assure you their *Laws*
 are very **Cruel**, for if one **FOOL** should say, *It*
is so, they will all say, whether *Right* or *Wrong*,
It is so, for I found it just after the same manner
 (*Manners they have none*) as it was with *myself* at
Gravesend, for the more I declar'd my *Innocency*,
 the more they cry'd out I was the *greater Rogue*,
 and because the **Constable** had consulted within
himself that I was not *Lame*, and that it was
Possible for me to be in the *Robbery* (*tho' there*
were several to prove to the contrary) they all set
 up a shout, *Away with him, away with him,*
away with him, and said, It was so.

When

When the Court was set, they enter'd into Dispute, *What this foul thing must be?* Some said a *Bird*, some said a *Beast*, and others said, it was *between both*, as a *Griffin* or *Dragon*, &c. but that would not do; for they said it was a sort of a *Dog*; then they puzzled themselves again, to know whether it was a *Bear-Dog*, a *Wolf-Dog*, a *Bull-Dog*, a *Mastiff-Dog*, a *Spanniel-Dog*, or a *Cur-Dog*; and one starts up in a great *Passion*, and said, he was sure it was a *sad Dog* in a *Swan's Doublet*. They could not agree to that neither, so began again: At length they all, with one accord, said, it must be a *Bird*, and they put it up to *Votes*, *What kind*. Then they were in a great hurry once more, as saying, it was a *Kite*, a *Vulture*, an *Owl*, a *Cuckoo*, a *Scare-Crow*, &c. but one being more wise than all the rest, said, *Gentlemen*, I do assure you, its no other than a *Hedge-Bird*, and oblig'd me to give my *Approbation*; which I readily did, and said, *If you were not a Parcel of blind Fools*, you may plainly see it's a *Rookish whoresbird*, and the very mischievous *Bird* I saw (when I was at *Gravesend*) in Company with a *Swan*, and now I find he is as great a *Rogue* as ever; for he has rode *Post* here (with the same intent as a *Prodigal Innkeeper* did after the *Jew* to *Canterbury*) and has *Robb'd* and *Plunder'd* his *Companion*, of all her *Feathers*, on purpose to act another *Part* in some dismal *Tragedy*. With that they all gave a great *Shout*, and cry'd, a *W—es Bird*, a *W—es Bird*, a *W—es Bird*, and said it was so, and call'd me the second *Solomon*; but they made such a heavy *Din*, that they quite turn'd my *Brain*, insomuch, that I became very *Foolish*, and whimsical *Thoughts* came into my head, that I really took the *Rook* for Mr *Silver* the *Constable*, at the *Sign* of the *Swan* in *Gravesend*.

I observ'd there were many more troubled with this *shallow-pated Distemper* as well as I; and 'tis an old Saying, and a very true one, where there is but few *Honest Men* there are the more *Knaves* and *Fools*, and just as I found them so I left them, and *Transported my self* into another *Climate*, to get the Benefit of the *sweet Air*, for I am sure, if I had stay'd in that *Nonsensical Place*, I most certainly should have lost all my Senses, and perhaps fell into a profound *Stupidity*.

It is not long since it cost that *foolish Country* a *Hundred Pounds* for sending two *Persons* to *Goal*, much in the same manner as the *Town of Gravelend* sent Me and my *Wife* to *Maidstone*; but the *Poor People* could not hold it, so were oblig'd to drop the Cause. And as for my Part, Mr *Silver* was so pleas'd to say I was a *Poor Dog*, and he was not afraid of me; but if he is not, I hope he will be of Others, for I don't question, with the Assistance of *GOD*, but gain my Ends, to see him severely punish'd for his *Wickedness*; that it may deter others from following the like *Practices*. Some People may think I give my *Pen* too much *Liberty*, but let them reason within themselves, if it was their own Case, let them consider what I, my *Wife*, and *Children* have suffer'd, and then they will be of another *Mind*; for this I set forth on Purpose, for a Warning to good People to take Care how they fall into the Hands of *vile men*, for I mean no other; and as the Proverb says, *Let them laugh that win*, I think I may claim the *Liberty* to speak, that has lost all.

It was not long after my Departure from *Gotham*, before I arriv'd at the *Famous City* of *London*, where I had the Happiness to see Mr *Freeman*, who very plainly told me, he would
send

send me to Goal, for saying **Goodman** was **condemn'd** to be **hang'd** (*he would have had me said Transported*). I was surpriz'd to see the **Man**, and thought he was turn'd *Fool* too, for little did I expect such a **Welcome** home from him, when I had suffer'd so much by the **false Accusation** of his **Kinsman**, but rather thought he would have been glad to see me out of my **Troubles**, instead of that he abused me very much, *I can't tell for what*, except it was for coming too near his **Home**, and afraid I should *publish* the **Actions** of that **Arch-Rogue** his **Brother-in-law**.

Mr **Freeman** might have run staring **born-mad**, and quite out of his **Senses**, if I had spoken of the **Coachman**——and his **Wife**——being **Goodman's** **Sister**; for 'tis said **Christians** go to **Heaven**. If so, he need not grumble at his **Happiness**; but to be a-kin to a **vile Rogue** that deserves **hanging** and escapes the **Gallows**, is enough to make a **Contented Man** fall into the same **Distemper** as *rages in the Country of Gotham*.

This **Worthy Gentleman** is very much **belov'd**, and so is his — **Wife**, for they live in very good **Credit**; therefore I'll return *Good for Evil*, by informing the **Publick** they may be well **furnish'd** with all manner of **Necessaries** fit for **Funerals**, by Mr **Luffman Freeman**, **Undertaker**, or **Death-hunter**, at the Sign of the **Three Nuns** in **Giltspur-street**, **Pye-Corner**, near **West-Smithfield**.

Goodman often wrote to his **Wife** to come and see him, but *she never went*, neither will *she* do any thing for him, and now goes by *her late Husband's Name*, and sent him **Word**, *It was a Name she had before she had him*; and desired **he** may rest **himself** **contented**, for it was not *her* doing that brought him there. *She* often used this **Ex-pression**,

pression, *You Dog! I shall see you hang'd; and I believe she did not care how soon; and rather than he should go without, would save the Sheriff a Groat, and be at that Charge herself in finding a Halter.* But all in good Time, for *she and I may rest ourselves contented for the present, they having made such Interest in the Twenty sixth Year of his Age, to gain him the Royal Mercy of a Reprieve till further Orders.*

F I N I S.

E R R A T A.

PAG. 18. l. 3. read, *as far as.*
 pag. 19. l. 26. for *Serwin*, r. *Sherwin.*
 Pag. 46. l. 8. for, *Friday 29.* r. *Friday 31.*

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